

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

All Social Studies courses are aligned to the Pennsylvania Social Studies standards and benchmarks and therefore ensure that all students achieve mastery of the important themes and patterns that are particularly unique to the social studies.

In order to complete graduation requirements, all students must earn a total of three credits in Social Studies as follows:

1. One credit for ninth grade Western Civilizations
2. One credit for tenth grade World Studies
3. One credit for eleventh grade American Studies

Academic level: A deliberately-paced, intentional and consistent examination of challenging grade-level materials. Teacher-guided instruction with projects scaled to ability and content. Focus on development and maintenance of basic reading, writing, and comprehension skills. Key academic skills such as note-taking, text summary and review, organization, synthesis, and analysis will be taught and assessed. Content is delivered and reviewed in manageable units. Students should expect regular homework collection and weekly assignments directed toward content review and skill practice. All work is designed around the goal of eventual independence at post-secondary school institutions.

College-preparatory level: A moderately paced course with a goal of developing independent learners and readers. College-preparatory courses are skill-driven, with an emphasis on content. Content is at or slightly above grade level, and based around primary documents and grade level texts. Students should expect a combination of teacher-guided and independent instruction. The level of student-driven analysis and synthesis will increase throughout the year. Student-centered projects and independent writing will foster development of the writing process, and stress the use of evidence to craft a detailed argument. All work is designed around the goal of eventual independence at college.

Honors Level: A rigorously paced course with above-grade level materials. Content utilizes historical primary documents to current day publications. Instruction keys on expectations of student-driven inquiry and analysis of multiple sources and perspectives. Students are expected to advocate for themselves as thinkers and learners. Depth of content and speed of its delivery rely upon consistent levels of independent reading and writing by the student. Student skills will be reinforced through projects and research, as well as discussion and conversation generated by student inquiry. The goal is continued intellectual independence and mastery of a wide variety of topics and points of view to prepare students for the most challenging colleges.

Seminar/Interdisciplinary: A rigorously paced interdisciplinary approach (combining SS and English) with above-grade and college level materials. Students are to be proactive as the norm, both in assignment completion and in the continued development of skills and intellectual inquiry. In-depth analysis of topics outside those presented in the classroom is also an expectation, as per the interdisciplinary model. Discussion and analysis will be drawn from a larger variety of topics and sources than in other levels. The goal is continued intellectual independence and mastery of a wide variety of topics and points of view to prepare students for the most challenging colleges.

Advanced Placement (AP): The AP social studies curriculum provides students the opportunity to take courses that are traditionally taught in a university setting. These courses' syllabi have been prescribed, audited and approved by the College Board. Strong reading and writing skills along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and independent study are necessary for success. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing and interpretation of original documents and cases. Assessments are aligned to those found on the AP exams and include, but are not limited to, multiple choice items, document-based, and free response essays. These courses are as rigorous as a college course in terms of subject matter and approach. Readings and documents are taken from college-level textbooks and students should expect daily reading and writing assignments and frequent exams. Through these AP college-level courses and exams, students can earn college credit and advanced placement and stand out in the college admission process.

In addition, students are encouraged to take one or more electives during 11th and/or 12th grade.

RHS Social Studies Department Courses				
	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Honors	Interdisciplinary: Integrated Western Civilization (0010)	Interdisciplinary: Global Issues (0020)	Interdisciplinary: Viewpoints on Modern America (0031)	Interdisciplinary: Senior Seminar (0040)
	Western Civilization Honors (0210)	World Studies Honors (0220)	AP United States History (0230) American Studies Honors (0231)	AP European History (0240) AP Psychology (0250) AP Economics (0260) AP Government & Politics (0270) AP Art History (0730) Contemporary American Studies (0280)
College Prep	Western Civilization (0212)	World Studies (0222)	American Studies (0232)	Psychology (0252) Government & Economics (0272) Sociology (0292)
Academic	Western Civilization (0214)	World Studies (0224)	American Studies (0234)	Issues & Answers (0294)

Note: With teacher recommendation, students may move between levels.

NINTH GRADE OFFERINGS

Integrated Western Civilization Honors (0010)

Credits: 2.0; Weighted

Length: Year; Format: Double Period, Meets Daily

Grade(s): 9

Prerequisite(s): Teacher Recommendation and Gifted Identification or after taking the Interdisciplinary diagnostic exam to provide feedback on current ability level

This team-taught course, first in a sequence of four interdisciplinary courses, combines the content of ninth-grade Western Civilization with advanced work in language arts. This survey course explores classic literary works in their historical and thematic contexts. This course, which traces a chronology from the late middle Ages to World War I, helps students meet both social studies and language arts standards at an advanced level. This two-period course requires students to be active and independent learners capable of making connections across themes and time. The Parallel Curriculum and Understanding by Design models allow for analysis of works of varying genres and media, including a challenging level of analytical writing.

9th Grade Western Civilizations Honors (0210)

1.0 Credit; Weighted

Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily

Grade(s): 9

Prerequisite(s): Teacher Recommendation

Western Civilization is a survey course that examines the roots and development of Europe from the middle Ages to World War II. The course looks at factors that shape civilization with unique identities. This course reaches beyond a narrow definition of history to give students exposure to the related fields of politics, philosophy, economics, literature, art and architecture, religion, psychology, and sociology. Students are engaged in a number of activities designed to foster acquisition and understanding of social studies concepts: reading primary and secondary sources, imaginative questioning techniques (what if? scenarios), frequent written expression, use of artwork and other visual media such as film, creative projects, and simulations. More traditional assessment methods (objective tests, expository essays, and research projects) are used to evaluate the progress of students. A vigorous curriculum with advanced level text used. Higher-level thinking and writing skills are emphasized through the use of synthesis, analysis, and evaluation.

9th Grade Western Civilizations (College Prep) (0212)

1.0 Credit; Unweighted

Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily

Grade(s): 9

Prerequisite(s): Teacher Recommendation

Western Civilization is a survey course that examines the roots and development of Europe from the middle Ages to World War II. The course looks at factors that shape civilization with unique identities. This course reaches beyond a narrow definition of history to give students exposure to the related fields of politics, philosophy, economics, literature, art and architecture, religion, psychology, sociology. Students are engaged in a number of activities designed to foster acquisition and understanding of social studies concepts: grade appropriate primary and secondary sources, imaginative questioning techniques (what if? scenarios), frequent written expression, use of artwork and other visual media such as film, creative projects, and simulations. More traditional assessment methods (objective tests, expository essays, and research projects) are used to evaluate the progress of students. Grade level texts are used.

9th Grade Western Civilizations (Academic) (0214)

1.0 Credit; Unweighted

Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily

Grade(s): 9

Western Civilization is a survey course that examines the roots and development of Europe from the middle Ages to World War II. The course looks at factors that shape civilization with unique identities. This course reaches beyond narrow definitions of history to give students exposure to the related fields of politics, philosophy, economics, literature, art and architecture, religion, psychology, and sociology. Students are engaged in a number of activities designed to foster acquisition and understanding of social studies concepts: reading level appropriate materials, use of artwork and other visual media such as film, creative projects, role plays, and simulations. More traditional assessment methods (objective tests, expository essays, and research projects) are used to evaluate the progress of students. A more structured curriculum and approach emphasizes skills in reading and writing. Level-appropriate texts and materials are used.

TENTH GRADE OFFERINGS

Global Issues Honors (0020)

Credits: 2.0; Weighted

Length: Year; Format: Double Period, Meets Daily

Grade(s): 10

Prerequisite(s): Teacher Recommendation and Gifted

Identification or after taking the Interdisciplinary diagnostic exam to provide feedback on current ability level

This team-taught seminar, second in a sequence of four Interdisciplinary courses, uses a Parallel Curriculum Model to combine advanced work in international studies with intense analysis of literary works from both non-Western cultures and the English-speaking world. The focus is on the non-Western world, concentrating on area studies of the Middle East, Africa, Russia, South and Central Asia, and the East Asia. Current issues are analyzed by interpreting key historical events and exploring the cultural heritage of each region. Important global issues such as human rights compliance, arms proliferation, conflict resolution, and trade are also studied in depth. By combining a comprehensive social studies approach (geopolitical, environmental, economic, demographic, anthropological, and sociological) with integrated language arts (novels, short stories, poetry, art, film, and music), this course develops critical thinking about contemporary international issues and universal themes. Exercises in creative and analytical writing, public speaking, debate, and research are combined with extensive group and independent work, hands-on projects, and simulations, to create an active learning experience. A research project requires that students develop an original thesis, evaluate and select resources, take notes, produce an outline, write a large essay, and provide thorough documentation of sources. At the conclusion of this project, students present their findings to the class.

World Studies Honors (0220)

1.0 Credit; Weighted

Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily

Grade(s): 10

Prerequisite(s): Teacher Recommendation

This course focuses on the historical development of current issues facing Russia, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Students study the relationship between traditional cultures in these areas and their present political, economic, and social positions in the world. Assessments include research papers, problem solving projects, independent study, simulations, and a current events portfolio. Questioning strategies aimed to test students' ability to conceptualize, analyze, synthesize, and evaluation are also used. Advanced level texts and many primary and secondary sources are used to interpret concepts.

World Studies (College Prep) (0222)

1.0 Credit; Unweighted

Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily

Grade(s): 10

Prerequisite(s): Teacher Recommendation

This course focuses on the historical development of current issues facing Russia, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Students study the relationship between traditional cultures in these areas and their present political, economic, and social position in the world. Assessments include research papers, projects, presentations, simulations and a current events portfolio. Grade level texts and primary/secondary sources are used.

World Studies (Academic) (0224)

1.0 Credit; Unweighted

Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily

Grade(s): 10

Prerequisite(s): Teacher Recommendation

This course focuses on the historical development of current issues facing Russia, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Students study the relationship between traditional cultures in these areas and their present political, economic, and social positions in the world. Assessments include research papers, projects, presentations, simulations, and a current events portfolio. A more structured curriculum and approach emphasizes skills in reading and writing. Level-appropriate texts and materials are used.

ELEVENTH GRADE OFFERINGS**Viewpoints on Modern America (0031)***2.0 Credits; Weighted**Length: Year; Format: Double Period, Meets Daily**Grade(s): 11**Prerequisite(s): Teacher Recommendation and Gifted Identification or after taking the Interdisciplinary diagnostic exam to provide feedback on current ability level*

This team-taught course, third in a sequence of four interdisciplinary courses, combines study of American history, politics, literature and culture, on a high honors level. The approach to curriculum is both chronological and thematic, and reflects essential questions about the American character. Readings include primary and secondary documents and extend into the related arts with particular attention to the genre of film. Methods used include active discussions, examinations of current political and social issues, lecture, group work, simulations, and presentations. Along the way, a variety of expository and creative writing assignments call on students to synthesize, argue, and analyze. The involvement of both teachers in delivery and assessment enriches the curriculum and increases students' awareness of varied points of view, new ideas, and core information about their national culture. The Parallel Curriculum approach allows students to connect history and literature as well as extend their studies into individualized areas of practice and interest.

Advanced Placement United States History (0230)*1.0 Credit; Weighted**Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily**Grade(s): 11**Prerequisite(s): Teacher Recommendation*

This course is an opportunity for the motivated and talented social studies student to use the methods historians use to bring insight and analysis to events in our nation's past. Advanced Placement US History is a college-level course that surveys the history of the United States from the colonial period to the present. Strong reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study are necessary for success. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, and interpretation of original documents. A college-level textbook is used. Several weeks are spent in intensive review to prepare students to take the College Board AP exam.

American Studies Honors (0231)*1.0 Credit; Weighted**Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily**Grade(s): 11**Prerequisite(s): Teacher Recommendation*

This course is a survey of United States history exposing students to historic concepts and also to concepts related to politics, society, economics, art and the environment. Major topics of study include, but are not restricted to, the development of the United States Constitution, immigration, the Civil War, manifest destiny, the progressive movement, industrialization, imperialism, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the cold war, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, civil rights, and American foreign policy. A vigorous curriculum incorporates advanced level texts and primary and secondary sources. Higher level thinking and

writing skills are emphasized through the use of synthesis, analysis, and evaluation.

American Studies (College Prep) (0232)*1.0 Credit; Unweighted**Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily**Grade(s): 11*

This course is a survey of United States History exposing students to historic concepts and also to concepts related to politics, society, economics, art, and the environment. Major topics of study include, but are not restricted to, the American Revolution, the development of the United States Constitution, Immigration, The Civil War, Manifest Destiny, the Progressive Movement, Industrialization, Imperialism, World War I, the 1920's, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Civil Rights movement. A challenging curriculum incorporates grade-level texts and primary and secondary sources.

American Studies (Academic) (0234)*1.0 Credit; Unweighted**Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily**Grade(s): 11*

This course is a survey of United States History exposing students to historic concepts and also to concepts related to politics, society, economics, art, and the environment. Major topics of study include, but are not restricted to, the American Revolution, the development of the United States Constitution, Immigration, The Civil War, Manifest Destiny, the Progressive Movement, Industrialization, Imperialism, World War I, the 1920's, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Civil Rights movement. An appropriately paced curriculum incorporates grade-level texts and primary and secondary sources.

SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES**Integrated Senior Seminar (0040)***Credits: 2.0; Weighted**Length: Year; Format: Double Period, Meets Daily**Grade(s): 12**Prerequisite(s): Teacher Recommendation and Gifted Identification or after taking the Interdisciplinary diagnostic exam to provide feedback on current ability level**Note(s): While not the primary focus of this course, Senior Seminar can prepare students for the Advanced Placement Literature examination.*

This team-taught seminar, fourth in a sequence of interdisciplinary courses, uses a Parallel Curriculum Model to combine history, literature, philosophy, and science in their broadest senses. This course examines man's ideas about the universe, life, society vs. individual, and consciousness. Students do not focus exclusively on any one region of the world, but instead look at philosophical ideas and how they affected and currently affect society in various cultures, including: cultural self-conceptions, the nature of progress, and elements of leadership. The curriculum is organized both thematically and chronologically. The "student-as-worker" approach to high-level learning experiences includes simulations; extensive writing, both expository and creative; close analysis of literary, historical, and visual sources; large and small group instruction; and problem-based learning.

Advanced Placement European History (0240)*1.0 Credit; Weighted**Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily**Grade(s): 11, 12*

The Advanced Placement course in European History reflects the most recent developments in history curricula at the undergraduate college level. In addition to providing an overview of important historical events and movements in modern European history from 1450 to the present, Advanced Placement European History help students acquire and develop an understanding of some of the principal themes in modern European history, an ability to analyze historical evidence, and an ability to express historical understanding in writing. The course is designed specifically to prepare students for the Advanced Placement (AP) examination. Assessments in this course are aligned to those found on the AP Exam and include, but are not limited to, multiple choice items and both document-based and thematic essays. This course is as rigorous as a college course in terms of subject matter and approach; readings and documents are taken from college-level textbooks, and students should expect daily reading and writing assignments. This course is open to all students; however, students who have a strong interest and proven track record in history are most likely to succeed.

Advanced Placement Psychology (0250)*1.0 Credit; Weighted**Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily**Grade(s): 10, 11, 12*

The purpose of the Advanced Placement Psychology course is to introduce students to systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major sub fields within psychology. The topics covered include development, biological basis for behavior, sensation and perception, cognition (learning, memory and intelligence), states of consciousness, personality, abnormal behavior, therapy, and emotion and motivation (sports psychology). Students also learn about the methods employed by psychologists studying behavior. This course is highly interactive and reliant on independent effort, initiative, and critical thinking. Experiments, surveys, opinion papers, simulations, and creative illustrations are examples of techniques used to facilitate learning. The class is taught on a college level with the opportunity to qualify for college credit by successfully completing Advanced Placement Psychology Examination.

Psychology (College Prep) (0252)*1.0 Credit; Unweighted**Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily**Grade(s): 11, 12*

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major sub fields within psychology. The topics covered include development, biological basis for behavior, sensation and perception, cognition (learning, memory and intelligence), states of consciousness, personality, abnormal behavior, therapy, and emotion and motivation

(sports psychology). Students also learn about the methods employed by psychologists studying behavior. Experiments, surveys, opinion papers, simulations, and creative illustrations are examples of techniques to be used to facilitate learning.

Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics (0270)*1.0 Credit; Weighted**Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily**Grade(s): 11, 12*

This course is designed to give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. It includes the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute US politics (AP Central website). The topics covered include the constitutional underpinnings of American democracy, political beliefs and behaviors, political parties, elections and campaigns, interest groups, the mass media, the Congress, the presidency, the federal courts, civil rights and civil liberties, the bureaucracy, and public policy. The course will prepare students to take the AP Exam. Textbooks designed for college students are used.

Advanced Placement Macroeconomics (0260)*1.0 Credit; Weighted**Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily**Grade(s): 11, 12*

Advanced Placement Economics replicates the introductory macroeconomics course taught in a university setting. As such, the course requires far more effort and commitment than the typical high school courses. The course goals are: to introduce students to the field of economics, to teach basic economic concepts and analytical skills, and to enable students to score well on the Advanced Placement Macroeconomics Examination. Macroeconomics is a study of how economic decision makers affect the economy as a whole in terms of employment, price stability, and economic growth. After defining and analyzing tools and models that describe the conditions of our national economy, our fundamental purpose is to analyze how fiscal and monetary policy may be used to promote full employment, price stability, and economic growth. Teaching strategies include teacher presentations, cooperative learning, discussion groups, and simulations.

Government & Economics (College Prep) (0272)*1.0 Credit; Unweighted**Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily**Grade(s): 11, 12*

This course provides students with an opportunity to study the relationship between government and economics through key concepts in both disciplines. Government topics include: the Constitution, structure of the U.S. government, the relationship between citizenship and government (including court cases, interest groups, and the political process) and individual rights as they relate to those of the larger group. Economics topics include: the role of markets, consumption and production, the world economy, the stock market, entrepreneurship, and current economic conditions. Teaching strategies include use of primary and secondary source material, films, market simulations, and creative projects.

Contemporary American Studies Honors (0280)*1.0 Credit; Weighted**Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily**Grade(s): 11, 12*

This course provides students with an opportunity to study post World War II American history, including the present, in great depth. Focus is placed on the cold war, McCarthyism, the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, the sixties counter-culture, feminism, Watergate, and the conservative revolution of the Reagan years. Liberal and conservative movements throughout this period are comparatively studied, supplemented by analysis of current social and political issues. The contemporary values of conservatives and liberals are traced back to their roots in 1950s and 1960s America, analyzing the music, TV and films of these eras. The current policy focus on fighting Islamic terrorists is compared and contrasted with the cold war focus of fighting communism, both at home and abroad. Current issues such as Immigration, race relations, changing family values, the role of government in the private lives of Americans, etc. are enhanced by studying the civil rights, feminist, gay, and evangelical Christian movements of the 50s through the present. Newspapers, magazines, films, music, discussion groups, and creative projects and field trips are utilized. This is an honors class but is designed to appeal to all types of students.

Sociology (College Prep) (0292)*1.0 Credit; Unweighted**Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily**Grade(s): 11, 12*

This course introduces students to the study of how social forces influence human behavior in groups and individually. Topics include social problems such as drug abuse, racism, sexism, and crime. Approaches to resolving social problems are also considered such as the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems, capital punishment, gun control, censorship, and affirmative action. Issues such as euthanasia, abortion, and

genetic research are evaluated for the ethical problems they raise. In addition, the social culture of Radnor High School is analyzed and surveys conducted. Films, newspapers, guest speakers (such as police, judges, etc.) and field trips (such as to a prison and city school) are used.

Issues and Answers (Academic) (0294)*1.0 Credit; Unweighted**Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily**Grade(s): 12*

This elective, for students needing more individualized instruction, uses a political, economic and social approach to understanding topics such as law and order, media, Immigration, gun control, tolerance, and other current issues. Readings, discussions, field experiences and videos are used.

Advanced Placement Art History (0730)*1.0 Credit; Weighted**Length: Year; Format: Meets Daily**Grade(s): 10, 11, 12*

Art history is a humanities course which explores history, culture and civilization through art. It's a course for students who want to understand art and its historical context. Students will examine the major forms of visual art expression from early man to the present and from a variety of cultures. Students learn how society has influenced art, and how art has influenced our understanding of history. Psychology, religion, and economics are explored in relation to history and art. This is a good course for students who plan to travel in the future, as it provides an understanding of art and culture around the world. Students electing this course may receive college credit or placement in the humanities by taking the Advanced Placement Art History exam. There is no prerequisite for this course, but students should be prepared to read and write at an honors level. This is an academic course, not a studio course and requires no artistic ability.